Joshua Bell was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in June 2005. An exclusive Sony Classical artist who has created a large and richly varied catalogue of recordings, Bell swept Billboard Magazine’s 2004 honors as “Classical Artist of the Year” with the “Classical Album of the Year” – the best-selling Romance of the Violin, a collection of classical favorites. The recording has also been released as a DualDisc, featuring video excerpts from Bell’s live concert broadcast from Lincoln Center’s Stanley Kaplan Penthouse for the PBS series Live From Lincoln Center.

For over two decades, Joshua Bell has been captivating audiences worldwide with his poetic musicality. He came to national attention at the age of 14 in a highly acclaimed orchestral debut with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra. A Carnegie Hall debut, the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a recording contract further confirmed his unique presence in the music world. Equally at home as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestra leader, Bell’s career is exceptionally varied. Now in his thirties, he continues to perform regularly with the world’s leading symphony orchestras and conductors. At the same time, his restless curiosity and multifaceted musical interests have taken him in exciting new directions, forging a unique career that has earned him the rare title of classical music superstar. In addition to his concert career, Bell enjoys chamber music collaborations with artists such as Pamela Frank, Steven Isserlis and Edgar Meyer as well as occasional collaborations with artists outside the classical arena including Josh Groban, Bobby McFerrin, Chick Corea, and James Taylor.

“Bell,” Gramophone stated simply, “is dazzling.”

Joshua Bell made his first recording at the age of 18, and he already had an extensive catalogue of classical recordings when joined the Sony Classical roster in 1996, hoping to expand his horizons as a recording artist. The result has been a distinctive and wide-ranging body of work that, to date, has yielded three Grammy Awards - for his
recording of Nicholas Maw’s Violin Concerto, which was written for him; for his West Side Story Suite recording; and for his performances on banjo virtuoso Bela Fleck’s crossover classical recording Perpetual Motion.

Among Bell’s most recent recordings for Sony Classical are performances on two film soundtracks, the Classical Brit-nominated Ladies in Lavender and the Fall 2005 release Dreamer: Inspired By A True Story. For three years, he was deeply involved in the creation of John Corigliano’s Academy Award-winning score for the 1999 film The Red Violin, performing the virtuosic solos on the soundtrack and serving as an advisor and even a stand-in in the film. In his Oscar acceptance speech, a jubilant Corigliano proclaimed, “Joshua plays like a god.” Bell also gave the world premiere of Corigliano’s The Red Violin, a concert work drawn from the film score which is also included on the Sony Classical original soundtrack recording. In 2001, Bell also performed on the soundtrack of the Academy Award-winning film Iris, in an original score by James Horner.

From the classical repertoire, Bell has made critically acclaimed recordings for Sony Classical of the concertos of Beethoven and Mendelssohn (both featuring his own cadenzas), and Sibelius and Goldmark, as well as the Nicholas Maw concerto. His Grammy-nominated recording Gershwin Fantasy premiered a new work for violin and orchestra based on themes from Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess. Its success led to an all-Bernstein recording (also a Grammy nominee) that included the premiere of the “West Side Story Suite” as well as a new recording of the composer’s Serenade. With the composer and double bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer, Bell appears on the Grammy-nominated crossover recording Short Trip Home and a disc of concert works by Meyer and the 19th-century composer Giovanni Bottesini. Bell also collaborated with Wynton Marsalis on the Grammy-winning spoken word children’s album, Listen to the Storyteller. He has twice performed on the Grammy Awards telecast in recent years, performing music from Short Trip Home and “West Side Story Suite.”

In addition to Grammy Awards, Bell has won the Mercury Music Prize for the Maw concerto recording with Sir Roger Norrington and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Germany’s Echo Klassik for Sibelius/Goldmark concerto recording with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Bell appeared as himself in the film Music of the Heart starring Meryl Streep, and millions of people are just as likely to see him on Late Night With Conan O’Brien as on the PBS programs Great Performances, “Joshua Bell:
West Side Story Suite from Central Park,” “Joshua Bell at the Penthouse,” “Live From Lincoln Center,” “Memorial
Day Concert,” Sesame Street or A&E’s Biography. He was one of the first classical artists to have a music video air on
VH1, and he has been the subject of a BBC Omnibus documentary. Bell has been profiled in publications ranging
from Newsweek to People Magazine’s 50 Most Beautiful People issue, Gramophone, and The New York Times, which
stated, “No one stands in Mr. Bell’s shadow.”

Bell and his two sisters grew up on a farm in Bloomington, Indiana. As a child, he indulged in many
passions outside of music, becoming an avid computer game player and a competitive athlete. He placed fourth in a
national tennis tournament at age 10 and still keeps his racquet close by. Bell received his first violin at age four after
his parents, both psychologists by profession, noticed him plucking tunes with rubber bands he had stretched
around the handles of his dresser drawers. By 12 he was serious about the instrument, thanks in large part to the
inspiration of renowned violinist and pedagogue Josef Gingold, who had become his beloved teacher and mentor.

In 1989, Bell received an Artist Diploma in Violin Performance from Indiana University. His alma mater
also honored him with a Distinguished Alumni Service Award only two years after his graduation. He has been
named an “Indiana Living Legend” and received the Indiana Governor’s Arts Award.

Bell has taught master classes at London’s Royal Academy of Music, and he has served as Adjunct Professor
at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab, helping to develop a new generation of high tech
instruments and toys. He currently serves on the Artist Committee of the Kennedy Center Honors.

Joshua Bell plays the 1713 Gibson ex Huberman Stradivarius.